

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 742
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mike Stockdale upon receiving the 2002 Conservation Law Enforcement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as talented professionals of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mike Stockdale, who through his excellent service with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), has received the 2002 International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (IAFWA) Conservation Law Enforcement Award for the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the IAFWA presents the Conservation Law Enforcement Award to recognize and reward outstanding accomplishments in enhancing the professionalism and significant advancement of conservation law based upon rigid criteria in the categories of Preventive Enforcement, Forensic Techniques, Equipment Development, Public Relations, Innovative Operations, and Conservation Enforcement Research; and

WHEREAS, employed by the TWRA for more than 30 years, Mike Stockdale has proven himself worthy of receiving such an elite award; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supervising 16 officers in eight counties, Mr. Stockdale has spent 26 years as a Wildlife Forensic and Analytical Specialist for the Agency and serves as the Supervisor of TWRA's Wildlife Forensic Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these duties he also serves as the Jurisdictional Representative from Tennessee to the North America Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership and initiative, Tennessee has developed one of the nation's leading wildlife forensic programs; the use of forensics has now become a vital part of TWRA's enforcement program and is essential to many investigations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockdale developed a scientific method for obtaining conclusive proof to distinguish firearm wounds from archery wounds, even in the event of alteration to the wounds; and

WHEREAS, this method has allowed officers to solve hundreds of illegal deer kill cases, and using this method during the past 13 years, the TWRA has not lost a court case; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his numerous contributions to the State of Tennessee, Mr. Stockdale's expertise has been influential nationwide, as well as in Italy; and

WHEREAS, he has aided other states in developing forensics programs after implementing TWRA's forensic program by using facilities and equipment at the University of Tennessee at Martin at no cost to TWRA via grant funding from organizations such as Shikar Safari Club International; the equipment obtained through such funding allows for the forensic identification of evidence that ranges from hair to DNA analysis of blood tissue and bone; and

WHEREAS, in addition to working with the State of Tennessee, Mr. Stockdale does case work for surrounding states, the National Park Service, USFWS, and the Fort Campbell Military Reservation; and

WHEREAS, passing independent proficiency testing in hair, immunology, and DNA analysis on blind test samples has qualified him to be accepted as an expert witness in federal and state courts in Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, recognized by colleagues as the leading expert in determining time of death in deer, his research and data on post mortem intervals aided the development of the computer program, NeuralTOD v.1.1, which is used throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockdale's work is not completely limited to wildlife cases; he has participated in the investigation of cases ranging from cattle rustling to satanic worship, and has analyzed forensic evidence on two first degree murder cases, one of which was featured on the Discovery Channel's *New Detectives* series; and

WHEREAS, with the help of other experts, Mr. Stockdale recently researched and developed a method of identifying the same species of fish from two different bodies of water, an interest that was spawned from the recent legalization of aquaculturing rockfish in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockdale is currently researching a 1997 proposal dealing with the usage of trace metal profiles to determine the harvest site of shells, and has received a three year federal grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the completion of the research; and

WHEREAS, a contributing author to the *Wildlife Forensic Field Manual*, Mr. Stockdale has also authored or co-authored numerous scholarly papers relating to wildlife law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stockdale received his Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, and his Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and has completed 27 additional hours of postgraduate work; he is a Charter Member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society at UT-Martin; and

WHEREAS, an Adjunct Professor at UT-Martin, he teaches a senior level course in wildlife forensics and a junior level course in wildlife law and his expertise is highly sought throughout the United States for in-service training programs; Mr. Stockdale has taught wildlife forensic classes for the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists, North American Wildlife Enforcement Group, National Wildlife Health Laboratories, USFWS, National Parks Service, Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers, and for wildlife agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Nebraska; he teaches courses on wildlife forensics each summer at Mississippi State University where he has instructed officers from nearly every wildlife agency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockdale is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Linda, to whom he modestly attributes his success; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stockdale epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mike Stockdale for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens as well as to the United States of America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mike Stockdale of TWRA for his laudable service to the people of Tennessee, saluting his professionalism and dedication to the conservation of wildlife, congratulate him on receiving the 2002 Conservation Law Enforcement Award, and extend to him our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.